

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SS-20 NSC-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7429

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3249

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, SA, US

SUBJ: PRESIDENT'S TRIP

REF : STATE 120936

1. FOLLOWING RESPONDS TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOR
PREPARATION OF BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOR PRESIDENTIAL VISIT.

(A) MILITARY HONOR GUARD AND BAND. TROOPS TO BE REVIEWED
BY KING AND PRESIDENT ON ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT WILL BE UNIT
FROM ROYAL GUARD. THIS IS ONE OF UNITS WHICH TRADITIONALLY
PARTICIPATES IN ARRIVAL CEREMONIES FOR FOREIGN DIGNITARIES.
THERE IS NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE UNIT.

(B) AIRPORT. AFTER REVIEWING THE TROOPS, THE PRESIDENT
WILL PASS DOWN A RECEIVING LINE OF PRINCES. A TEMPORARY
AWNING OR QUOTE PAVILLION UNQUOTE WILL HAVE BEEN ERECTED
TO SHADE THEM FROM THE SUN. PRESIDENT WILL THEN PROCEED
TO THE VIP SALON. IT CONSISTS BASICALLY OF A SINGLE LARGE
ROOM WITH ARMCHAIRS AROUND THE WALLS. IT IS A PROSAIC
MODERN STRUCTURE WITH NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE.

(C) ROYAL GUEST PALACE. IT IS GENERALLY REFERRED TO AS
ROYAL GUEST PALACE IN ENGLISH. IN ARABIC IT IS FREQUENTLY
CALLED QUOTE QASR AL DYUF (WHICH TRANSLATES SIMPLY AS
QUOTE GUEST PALACE UNQUOTE) OR QUOTE QASR AL HAMRA UNQUOTE
WHICH MEANS RED PALACE IN ARABIC. THIS LATTER NAME DERIVES
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NOT FROM THE COLOR OF THE PALACE (WHICH IS DUN COLOR) BUT

BECAUSE IN SOME ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES IT IS SUPPOSED TO RESEMBLE THE RENOWNED QUOTE ALHAMBRA UNQUOTE IN SPAIN. THE PALACE CONSISTS OF TWO SECTIONS BUILT AT DIFFERENT TIMES THROUGH THIS IS NOT EVIDENT FROM THE EXTERIOR. THE PRESIDENT WILL INITIALLY ARRIVE AT THE OLDER SECTION DONE IN AN ELABORATE ARABIC STYLE. VIP QUARTERS FOR OTHER THAN THE PRESIDENT ARE LOCATED IN THIS SECTION OF THE PALACE AND ARE SPACIOUS AND DECORATED IN A VARIETY OF STYLES, GENERALLY EUROPEAN PERIOD. THE PRESIDENT'S SUITE IS LOCATED IN THE NEW SECTION OF THE PALACE ABOVE THE MAIN RECEPTION SALON AND DINING ROOM. THE ENTIRE FLOOR OF THIS SECTION OF THE PALACE IS FOR THE USE OF THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. NIXON. IT CONSISTS OF TWO LARGE BEDROOMS EACH WITH BATH AND DRESSING ROOM AND A THIRD SMALLER BEDROOM NEAR THE ROOM SET ASIDE FOR MRS. NIXON. THERE ARE IN ADDITION TWO LARGE SITTING ROOMS, ONE IN EUROPEAN PERIOD FURNITURE WHERE PRIVATE MEALS COULD BE SERVED. THE OTHER FURNISHED IN A NEAR EASTERN MOTIF. UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S QUARTERS IS A LARGE RECEPTION ROOM, CARPETED, WITH ARM CHAIRS AROUND THE WALLS. THE LARGE DINING ROOM WHICH ADJOINS IT CONSISTS OF A RECTANGULAR HEAD TABLE AT ONE END WITH THREE VERY LONG RETANGULAR TABLES SET AT RIGHT ANGLES TO IT RUNNING MOST OF THE LENGTH OF THE ROOM. THERE IS IN ADDITION A SMALL SITTING ROOM LOCATED OFF THE MAIN ENTRY HALL ACROSS FROM THE RECEPTION SALON WHERE THE PRESIDENT IS SCHEDULED TO MEET BRIEFLY WITH THE KING BEFORE DINNER. THIS SALON HAS ABOUT EIGHT CHAIRS ARRANGED IN A SEMI-OVAL.

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